



# FACT SHEET

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## Sustainability at Cedar Creek Corrections Center

### Operations

- **Composting:** Cedar Creek Corrections Center composts all of its food waste, shredded paper, sawdust, grass and weeds and then uses the compost on its organic gardens.
- **Organic Gardens:** The prison now has 25,500 square feet of garden space, including greenhouses and worm farms. In 2009 offenders produced more than 9,500 pounds of fresh vegetables to the garden.
- **Water Catchment:** Captured rainwater is used to water gardens and flush some toilets. The prison captured about 23,500 gallons of water in 2009.
- **Mattress Recycling:** In a partnership with Correctional Industries, Cedar Creek recycles mattresses rather than sending them to local landfills.
- **Waste Reduction:** By recycling and re-using materials, Cedar Creek reduced the amount of solid waste it produced by 43 percent in 2009.
- **Intensive Recycling:** In 2009 Cedar Creek recycled nearly 60,000 pounds of material, up from 41,000 pounds in 2005.
- **Reduced Waste Stream:** More items, including mop heads, bedding and rags, are now washed and re-used multiple times. Clothes that can no longer be worn are cut up and used as cleaning rags. Cedar Creek once had to have a 20-year Dumpster emptied two to three times per week. Now a 10-yard Dumpster is emptied once per week.
- **Reduced Paper Consumption:** By using projectors instead of handouts and encouraging less use of paper products, the prison reduced the amount of paper it consumes by 28 percent.
- **Reduced Fuel Consumption:** By using hybrid vehicles, reducing internal offender transports and consolidating external offender trips, the prison reduced its fuel consumption by 47 percent.

### Nature Programs

- **Endangered Species:** The staff and offenders are rearing the endangered Oregon spotted frogs from eggs so to help restore the ecosystem in South Puget Sound. The frogs reared at Cedar Creek have had a higher survivorship rate than frogs reared at zoos and nature centers in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.
- **Cricket Project:** In 2009 Oregon Zoo provided Cedar Creek a grant to help establish a cricket-rearing project that will help feed the Oregon spotted frogs. That will save money spent on purchasing and shipping crickets from Southeastern states and will reduce the project's carbon footprint. Cedar Creek now has six aquariums that are used to raise crickets.
- **Beehives:** Offenders operate beehives at the prison, produce their own honey, lotions and lip balms. They also helped a researcher study bee colony collapses. In 2008 the offenders captured a swarm. A biologist from The Evergreen State College brought in 20 hives to train offenders how to raise bees.

- **Science Lectures:** Cedar Creek hosts lectures by university researchers and biologists from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Both the staff and offenders have learned about biodiesel fuels, worm composting, groundwater hydrology, green roofs and more.

## Facilities

- **LEED-Certified Buildings:** The new Perimeter Control Office is LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED-certified buildings require less water and electricity to operate use more natural light and require fewer toxic materials to build.
- **Recycled Building Materials:** The decorative timber on the Perimeter Control Office porch was made from timber harvested at Cedar Creek. The composting structure was built mostly with scrap material. The greenhouses had been damaged during storms before offenders refurbished them.

## More Information

Visit the Department of Corrections' [sustainability website](#) for statewide information.